



PATENT APPLICATION

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Kakuji MIYATA, et al.

Atty. Dck. No. 108421-00029

Serial No.: 10/009,729

Examiner: S. Harris

Filed: January 31, 2002

Art Unit: 3636

For: RECLINING APPARATUS

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

GROUP 3600

Commissioner for Patents
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Sir:

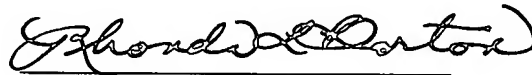
Date: October 14, 2003

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the information item(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each item(s) is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the item(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- ☐ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application, OR (c) accompanies a Request for Continued Examination. No certification or fee is required.
- ☒ 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.
- ☒ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).

- ☐ c. A check in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p). Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.
- ☐ 3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. Attached is our check in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the petition fee under 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1). Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.
- ☐ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).
- ☐ 4. The reference(s) was/were cited by or submitted to the Office in parent application No. 09/306,572, filed May 6, 1999, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these references are not attached. 37 CFR § 1.98(d).

Respectfully submitted,



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Utility Model Publication No. 53-15529

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Date of filing: 15.05.1972

Next, a description will be given of an operation and an effect thereof is mentioned.

When moving the handle 6 to an upper side, the control plate 13 rotates around the shaft 2 in accordance with the engagement between the long hole 16 of the operating plate 4 and the pin 15 studded on the control plate 13, and the pressing piece 32 which has pressed the lock plates 23 and 24 from a back side till then moves apart from the lock plates 23 and 24 at the same time when the cam surfaces 30 and 31 of the cam holes 11 and 12 are brought into contact with the pins 28 and 29 studded on the lock plates 23 and 24.

Accordingly, since the lock plates 23 and 24 slide along the guide portions 26 and 27 of the guide plate 25 in a direction of the shaft 2, and the engagement teeth 17 and 18 of the sectors 19 and 20 are disconnected from the engagement teeth 21 and 22 of the lock plates 23 and 24, the bracket 1 close to the back seat can freely rotate around the shaft 2.

When releasing the hand from the handle 6 at a proper position, the control plate 13 rotates owing to the return force of the coil spring 33, and the pressing piece 32 fixed to the control plate 13 presses the lock plates 23 and 24 from the back side so as to engage the engagement teeth 17 and 18 of the sectors 19 and 20 with the engagement teeth 21 and 22 of the lock plates 23 and 24 at the same time when the cam surfaces 30 and 31 are moved apart from the pins 28 and 29. Therefore, the back seat side

bracket 1 can not rotate around the shaft 2.

Subsequently, a description will be given of a case that an external force is applied to the back seat side bracket 1.

The force applied to the back seat side bracket 1 is transmitted to the lock plates 23 and 24 in accordance with the engagement between the sectors 19 and 20 and the lock plates 23 and 24. Accordingly, a rotation component force around the shaft 2 and a center component force moving toward the shaft 2 are applied to the lock plates 23 and 24. However, the rotation component force applied to the lock plates 23 and 24 are applied to the guide plate 25 along which the lock plates 23 and 24 slide, and is an opposite force to the center component force generated in the lock plate 23 and the lock plate 24. Further, both the forces are applied to the pressing piece 32 and are cancelled.